



The Old Ironsides Report

24 June 2003

U.S. Senators, soldiers share ideas, points of view at dinner

Story and photo by Pfc. Derrol Fulghum, 1AD PAO

BAGHDAD, Iraq -- Three U.S. senators braved the dangers of Iraq to have dinner with 1st Armored Division soldiers June 23.

Eighteen soldiers representing Delaware, Nebraska and Indiana met with their representatives at an informal dinner held on the Baghdad International Airport.

"It's a real morale boost for him to come all the way here just to eat with us," said Spc. Brian Bogart, 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery. Bogart dined with Sen. Dick Lugar from Delaware.

During the day, the lawmakers spent the day meeting with Office of Coalition Provisional Authority and other officials in Baghdad.

The senators made no formal entrances or speeches; they simply got their food, sat down and talked with soldiers. Following the meal, they posed for pictures with each of the soldiers from their state.

Throughout the evening, they discussed various issues from the situation in Iraq to the weather along the east coast of the United States.

Cooks from the 4th Brigade Combat Team Dining Facility provided a meal for the group, which the soldiers and senators said they highly enjoyed.

Aircraft electrician with 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, Staff Sgt. Brent Sweeny from Indianapolis dined with Senator Joseph Biden.

"I think it's good that an honored representative of Indiana would eat with soldiers. It shows that the state cares," he said.



U.S. Sen. Dick Lugar of Delaware talks with Cpt. Christopher Compton, C Battery, 1st Battalion, 94th Field Artillery during an informal dinner at the Baghdad International Airport June 23.

Senator Chuck Hagle of Nebraska made a favorable impression on "his" soldiers, said 1st Sgt. Martin Roy with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, V Corps from Omaha, Neb.

"I have to respect anybody who will leave the comforts of the U.S. willingly to come out here and eat field food with soldiers," he said.

The soldiers said that it lifted their spirits to know that the representatives of their states were thinking about them. The evening also helped the senators get a good idea of how their Army constituents in Iraq were living.



New MP Company Leader

Cpt. David Stender (left) passes the 501st Military Police Company's guidon to 1st Sgt. Paul Thomas during change of command ceremonies June 23. Cpt. Ryan Ebel (background) assumed command of the company. Photo by Spc. Shauna McRoberts, 1 AD PAO

NEWS

Supreme Court Split on Affirmative Action

WASHINGTON (AP) - A divided Supreme Court allowed universities to give minority applicants an edge in admissions Monday, ruling that the path to leadership in the nation must "be visibly open to talented and qualified individuals of every race and ethnicity." But it also said that race cannot be the determining factor. In two decisions, the court underscored that racial quotas are unconstitutional but left room for the nation's public universities - and by extension other public and private institutions - to seek ways to take race into account.

Court OKs Anti-Porn Filters in Libraries

WASHINGTON (AP) - A divided Supreme Court ruled Monday that Congress can force the nation's public libraries to equip computers with anti-pornography filters. The blocking technology, intended to keep smut from children, does not violate the First Amendment even though it shuts off some legitimate, informational Web sites, the court held.

Hamas Reportedly Will Accept Truce Deal

JERUSALEM (AP) - Hamas and other militant groups are on the verge of agreeing to halt attacks on Israelis, Palestinian officials said Monday, while Israel warned it may not accept what it considers a tactical cease-fire meant to give the militias time to regroup for more violence.

Murder Trial Begins in 'Windshield' Death

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) - A former nurse's aide pleaded guilty to a lesser count Monday before she went on trial on a murder charge, accused of hitting a man with her car and leaving him stuck in the windshield and dying. Chante Jawan Mallard, 27, faces life in prison if convicted of murder.

Chaplain's thought for the day:

Bad moments, like good ones, tend to be grouped together.

--Edna O'Brien

There are days when we think the whole world is against us. Sometimes we let our thoughts center on a cluster of bad moments and forget the good moments. After all if it weren't for the bad moments we wouldn't recognize the good moments. Deciding to think about the good moments can allow our spirits to rise and make the bad moments fade away.

"...for he makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust."
Matthew 5:45

SPORTS

Hewitt Upset in First Round at Wimbledon

WIMBLEDON, England (AP) - Wimbledon began with an upset unprecedented in the Open era Monday when defending champion Lleyton Hewitt lost to 6-foot-10 qualifier Ivo Karlovic of Croatia. Karlovic, the tallest player in tournament history, dominated with his serve and beat Hewitt 1-6, 7-6 (5), 6-3, 6-4.

Queen Venus Hammers Slovak LONDON

(Reuters) - Twice former champion Venus Williams looked every inch the Queen of Wimbledon Monday with her silver tiara-like hairband, dangling earrings and necklace. But she offered qualifier Stanislava Hrozenska no royal reprieve, bludgeoning the hapless Slovak, ranked 194 in the world, 6-2, 6-2 in 50 minutes.

The fourth seed strode assertively on to court two and banged down three aces for her first three points of the match, swinging in serves at 185 kph.

July Court Date for Fighter Tyson

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Former world heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson, facing assault charges after a Brooklyn hotel brawl, is due in court on July 24.

Tyson, the self-described "baddest" man on the planet who has had previous run-ins outside the ring, was involved in a skirmish with two men early on Saturday. He could face up to a year in jail if convicted on the third-degree assault charges.

Tyson was convicted and jailed for three years for raping a former beauty queen in 1991, but he has denied raping the woman and accused her of lying. Last month, he said in a TV interview that he was so angry with her that he wanted to rape her now.

The two men involved in the fight with Tyson at the Marriott Hotel in Brooklyn on Sunday pleaded not guilty to misdemeanor charges of menacing and harassment.

And in other news...

Sandler Ties the Knot With Titone

MALIBU, Calif. (AP) - Adam Sandler married model-actress Jackie Titone in an outdoor ceremony that was attended by celebrity friends and his pet bulldog dressed in a custom tuxedo. "Sandler got married," the comic's Web site said. "Woopity Doo!" No other details were immediately available.

TODAY'S WEATHER

High: 108F/42C

Low: 81F/27C

